

UNITED STATES ARMY  
THE CHIEF OF STAFF

11 June 1956

Executive Order  
8-3509

*Handwritten signature/initials*

Dear Allen:

You were very kind to forward me the CIA study on "Brainwashing". The report has been carefully studied by appropriate agencies of the Army Staff. All agree that it is an excellent discussion which should clarify some of the misunderstanding that surrounds current thinking concerning the "brainwash process". The detailed descriptions of the Russian and Chinese interrogation techniques are well done and should prove of interest and value to intelligence personnel.

There is, however, one implied conclusion in the study which is at variance with Army records. I refer to the statement that certain repatriated prisoners of war who had been "brainwashed" were tried by courts-martial. Actually, before initiating court-martial proceedings against any prisoner of war, the issue of mental responsibility received careful consideration, and in no case was this factor substantiated as a valid defense during trial.

In appreciation for your thoughtfulness in providing me with the opportunity to review the study and with warm regards,

Sincerely,

*Max*

MAXWELL D. TAYLOR  
General, United States Army  
Chief of Staff

Honorable Allen W. Dulles  
Director  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D. C.

UNCLASSIFIED		CONFIDENTIAL		SECRET	
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP					
TO	NAME AND ADDRESS		INITIALS	DATE	
1	CD/P 15 JUN 1956				
2	C/PP			15 June	
3				STAT	
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ACTION		DIRECT REPLY		PREPARE REPLY	
APPROVAL		DISPATCH		RECOMMENDATION	
COMMENT		FILE		RETURN	
CONCURRENCE		INFORMATION		SIGNATURE	

Remarks:

For preparation of reply for the Director's signature. The Director said he wanted this handled promptly.

1 to 2: Please prepare the reply to this letter, including some explanation of the point which General Taylor raises in paragraph 2.

Richard Helms

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FOLD HERE TO RETURN TO SENDER

FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO.		DATE
15 June 56		